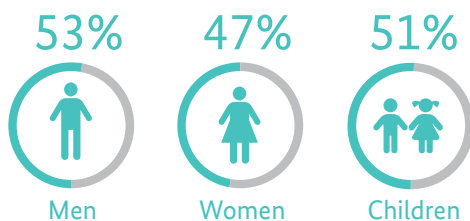


Building Bridges: Fostering Social Cohesion between Forced Displaced Afghans and Host Communities (BBSC)

Focus Theme: Support to the Government of Pakistan in Refugee-Related Matters

Context

After more than four decades of protracted displacement, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan continues to host approximately 1.33 million registered Afghan refugees. The majority reside in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (53%) and Baluchistan (23%), with 68% living in urban and semi-urban areas alongside their Pakistani host communities. They rely primarily on national public services. Approximately, 53% are men and 47% are women, of which 51% are children.



Goals & Objectives

The primary goal of this project is to help the Government of Pakistan promote social harmony between Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities.

The project outcomes are as follows:

1. Strengthening of peaceful coexistence between forced displaced Afghans and members of host communities.
2. Local integration of Urban Cohesion Hubs that provide services to forced-displaced Afghans and host communities.
3. Strengthening the capacity of key actors, such as the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), in political processes related to the management of forced displacement.

Project name	Building Bridges: Fostering Social Cohesion between Afghan Refugees and Host Communities (BBSC)
Commissioned by	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands
Project region	Pakistan: Urban areas of Baluchistan (Quetta, and Chaman), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar), and Sindh (Karachi)
Political partners	Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Baluchistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project duration	December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2025

BBSC is committed to achieving its goals and objectives through a range of outputs designed to make a positive impact on the communities it serves.

These outputs include:

- Improving livelihood through various activities, such as entrepreneurship trainings, small business grants, Step Up Approach etc.
- Enhancing individual and organizational capacities to establish functioning networks, especially for women and youth
- Establishing a new Urban Cohesion Hub to extend services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Continue offering services through existing Hubs in Quetta, Chaman, and Karachi
- Strengthen the capacity of SAFRON/CCAR to implement selected strategies in the context of forced displacement



Left: Balochistan Knng fu Championship in Quetta.

Right: CIF for Wool Spinning Center, Quetta.



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Left: Watermelon day at UCH, Karachi

Right: Music Class at UCH, Karachi

Project Mainstreaming

Social Cohesion

The project aims to help both displaced Afghans and vulnerable members of host communities through an integrated approach. The approach involves conducting participatory needs assessments, providing capacity development training to improve their access to livelihoods, and facilitating interaction, dialogue, and trust-building. The project's gender-sensitive approach focuses on fostering peaceful coexistence and resilience among the target group. Moreover, it aims to strengthen constructive state-society relations through dialogue between state institutions (CCAR) and displaced Afghans and members of host communities, including a review of the SSAR.

Gender Equality

BBSC is committed to promoting gender equality in all its interventions and aims to bring about transformational change wherever possible. The organization strives to ensure that both men and women have equal access to its activities, with a particular focus on engaging female outreach volunteers to encourage women's participation and involvement.

BBSC ensures that a 50:50 ratio of women and men benefit from its UCHs and plans to implement gender-specific measures to support vulnerable women in the area of livelihoods. Women-specific skill development programs, such as tailoring and fashion design, will be provided to enable women to access education and livelihood opportunities, empowering them to reach their full potential. Moreover, BBSC is committed to transforming discriminatory gender norms. The organization will raise awareness about gender-based violence and menstrual hygiene management at the UCHs, involving everyone, including men and boys, as agents of change. By doing so, BBSC hopes to make a meaningful contribution to the fight for gender equality and to create a better future for all.

Reduction of Inequalities

An additional aim of the project is to provide support to vulnerable Afghan refugees and host communities with training and livelihood mechanisms. The project focuses on the most vulnerable sections of the communities that have been affected by external shocks like climate disasters and aims at addressing social inequalities. There is a strong emphasis on supporting women and youth communities.

Projected Results

The project is bolstering the harmonious coexistence between Afghan refugees and their host communities by deploying a comprehensive strategy that not only enhances livelihood opportunities for these communities but also significantly improves conditions for both individuals and organizations, with a keen emphasis on empowering women and youth networks and groups. The establishment, operationalization, and sustainability of Urban Cohesion Hubs in strategic locations including Quetta, Chaman, Karachi, and Peshawar is delivering an extensive array of services to both Afghan refugees and host communities, promoting their seamless local integration. Through this elaborate approach, the project is cultivating social harmony and bridging the socioeconomic divides between Afghan refugees and the host communities, thus fostering a more equitable and inclusive society. BBSC aims to provide services to a total of 100,000 individuals with an almost equal ratio of women to men.

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